

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, as amended, and new claims 13 and 14 are before the Examiner for consideration.

Editorial changes have been made in claims 1-12. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite that the compression program includes a stylesheet and a compaction algorithm. See applicants' specification, page 19, line 29 to page 20, line 6. New dependent claims 13 and 14 reciting the stylesheet is written in eXtensible Stylesheet language (XSL) have been added. See applicants' specification at page 30, lines 29-31 for support for these new claims.

1. The specification has been revised to include subtitles, to correct a spelling error requested by the Examiner, and to make some stylistic changes.

2. The Abstract has been amended as required.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11 and 12 were objected to for stated reasons. Each noted informality has been amended, thereby

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mooting those objections.

4. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1-12 have been amended to overcome all aspects of the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

5. Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 9 has been amended to recite that the automation equipment is one "comprising a memory for containing an automation application program." The claim is thus directed to a computer-readable medium encoded with a program. Accordingly, claims 9-12 are directed to statutory subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

6. Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Muenzel U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0004804. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The presently claimed programming station for generating an automation application program for execution in an automation equipment includes a memory for storing at least one description file, each description file describing part of an automation application program and being expressed in a single, hierarchical and object-oriented language, a compression program for generating a file in a compacted format for each description file, the compression program including a stylesheet and a compaction algorithm, the stylesheet for generating a reduced file to be processed by the compaction algorithm for generation of a compacted file, wherein contents of the compacted file describe part of the application program for execution, and a loading program for storing each compacted file in an equipment memory in an automation equipment. This arrangement is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited reference. Claims directed to related automation equipment also patentably define over the reference.

The Examiner asserts that Muenzel '804 discloses a compression program that generates a compacted file. Applicants, with respect, disagree. Muenzel '804 at Fig. 2 and

related paragraphs 0038-0040 actually describes a converter 66 for converting binary format to formatted form 64 for subsequent viewing on a display device or printer, and optional transmission. Muenzel '804 says nothing about a compressed format, and even if the formatted form 64 shown in Muenzel '804, Fig. 2, were regarded to be comparable to applicants' reduced file, Muenzel '804 does not disclose or suggest (1) such file being a reduced file generated by use of a style sheet, or (2) such file being subsequently processed by a compaction algorithm to generate a compacted file, wherein contents of the compacted file describe part of the application program for execution, as recited in applicants' independent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Muenzel '804 fails to disclose all elements of applicants' claimed invention, and therefore is not a proper basis for rejection under §102. Claims 2-8 and 13, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable, and claims 10-12 and 14, which depend from claim 9, are allowable for the same reasons that claim 9 is allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

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All claims 1-14 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1-14 is respectfully requested.


The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging receipt of the certified copy of the priority document and for listing the reference submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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